

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the ABSTRACT and replace the following ABSTRACT therefor:

A method ~~facilitates assembling and apparatus for~~ a rotor assembly for gas turbine engine are provided. ~~The method includes providing a~~ A first rotor blade including an airfoil, a platform, a shank, an internal cavity, and a dovetail is provided, wherein the airfoil extends radially outward from the platform, which includes a radially outer surface and a radially inner surface, the shank extends radially inward from the platform, and the dovetail extends from the shank, such that the internal cavity is defined by the airfoil, the platform, the shank, and the dovetail. ~~The method also includes coupling the first rotor blade~~ is coupled to a rotor shaft such that during engine operation, cooling air is channeled from the cavity through an impingement cooling circuit for impingement cooling the first rotor blade platform radially inner surface, and ~~coupling a second rotor blade~~ is coupled to the rotor shaft such that a platform gap is defined between the first and second rotor blade platforms.

Please delete paragraph [0014] and replace the following paragraph therefor:

Figure 1 is a schematic illustration of an exemplary gas turbine engine 10 coupled to an electric generator 16. In the exemplary embodiment, gas turbine system 10 includes a compressor 12, a turbine 14, and generator 16 arranged in a single monolithic rotor or shaft 18. In an alternative embodiment, shaft 18 is segmented into a plurality of shaft segments, wherein each shaft segment is coupled to an adjacent shaft segment to form shaft 18. Compressor 12 supplies compressed air to a combustor 20 wherein the air is mixed with fuel supplied via a stream 22. In one embodiment, engine 10 is a 9FA+e gas turbine engine commercially available from General Electric Company, Greenville, South ~~Carolina~~ Carolina.